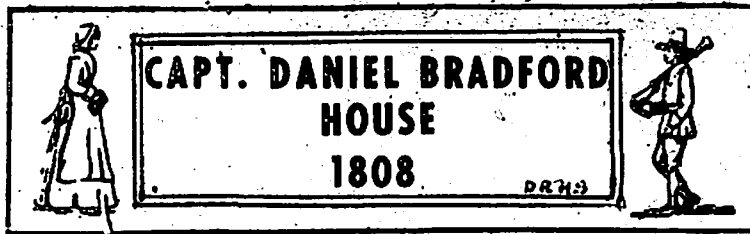


Historical houses - NAMED, A-L

(Harrison St.)

DUXBURY CLIPPER

Thursday, September 19, 1968



Captain Daniel Bradford inherited 40 acres from his father, Col. Gamaliel Bradford, and in 1808 built a substantial white house on a knoll "on the south side of the road leading from the County road to Joshua Winsor's," now Harrison St. He lived in the fine new house only a few years for in January, 1811, when he sold to Jacob Smith he was "of Keene, Cheshire County, New Hampshire." It will probably distress the present owner, Mrs. Thomas Lanman, to know that the house, fencing and land, sold for \$2000.

The Smiths so shortly took over the place and lived there so long - 66 years - that it would have come down through the years as the Jacob Smith house, had it not been built by a Bradford. Captain Daniel's father was Col. Gamaliel, of Revolutionary fame; his grandfather was the Hon. Gamaliel, a great grandson of Governor William Bradford, Pilgrim, and no Smith could counteract that ancestry.

After the Smiths came another Bradford. Laurence Bradford, 35, single, had been at sea since his youth, had served in the Navy in the Civil War, and was just beginning a career in Hydrographic Engineering. He was ready to settle down and wanted a home in Duxbury. Fortunately his Uncle Daniel's house was available and on Oct. 1, 1877, he bought from the Smith heirs "a lot of land in said Duxbury with the fencing and buildings thereon, being the same conveyed to Jacob Smith, father of the Grantors; by Daniel Bradford," and included in the sale were five small parcels ranging from 95 rods to 5 acres, and 2 other parcels that came to them from their uncle Moxon Smith. (They must have been plagued with poison ivy then as now for Moxon is remembered as having died from breathing dogwood smoke). And all this acreage, with buildings sold for \$1600. This was just after the Civil War, business was at a low ebb, and real estate was cheap.

Laurence Bradford probably spent the winter renovating the house after years when a large family had lived there. The next April, in his own front parlor, he and Hattie Phipps of Kingston were married. So here was a Bradford family, with two sons added, Gershom and Edward, boys who recall a pleasant boyhood on the old farm.

Then Laurence Bradford inherited the Captain Gershom house, probably the occasion for much family consideration before the decision to move was reached. In 1894 he sold to Jane Anderson of Providence, land and buildings, with 18 acres and 38 1/2 rods - the same description as is on the last deed. There have been five subsequent owners with the last sale in 1952.

Over the years some changes have taken place - the one story ell is now two stories, some trees have been planted and others lost, the railroad has come and gone along the east boundary, the dirt road is paved - but Captain Daniel would feel at home if he walked in today.

Dorothy Wentworth, researcher